

NEWS RELEASE

**Potato Stocks
March 13, 2003**

NORTH DAKOTA MARCH 1 POTATO STOCKS

North Dakota

Stocks of potatoes in North Dakota's growers, dealers and processors storage facilities on March 1, 2003 was estimated at 9.3 million hundredweight (cwt), down 24 percent from last year and 19 percent below two years ago, according to the North Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service. This is the lowest March 1 level since 2000 when stocks were estimated at 9.0 million cwt. Current stocks represent 40 percent of production, down from 47 percent last year. Total stocks are defined as all potatoes on hand, regardless of use, including those that will be lost through future shrinkage and dumping.

Disappearance, from the start of harvest in 2002 to March 1, totaled 14.2 million cwt, up from 14.1 million cwt last year, but down from 15.5 million cwt two years ago. February disappearance totaled 1.90 million cwt, down from the 2.20 million cwt disappearance for both last year and two years ago.

United States

The 15 major potato States held 164 million cwt of potatoes on March 1, 2003, up 3 percent from last year but 17 percent below 2001. Storage accounts for 40 percent of the 2002 fall storage State's production, down 1 percentage point from last year.

Disappearance, at 247 million cwt, from the start of harvest in 2002 to March 1, is up 8 percent from the same period last year but 5 percent below two years ago. Processors used 126 million cwt of 2002 crop potatoes so far this season, up 10 percent from a year ago but 4 percent below two years ago. Dehydrators used 28.0 million cwt to date.

For More Information Contact:

FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND MARCH STOCKS

State	Crop of 2001		Crop of 2002	
	Production	Stocks Mar 1, 2002	Production	Stocks Mar 1, 2003
	-- 1,000 Cwt --		-- 1,000 Cwt --	
NORTH DAKOTA	26,400	12,300	23,460	9,300
California	1,424	600	4,450	1,000
Colorado	21,357	9,400	27,885	12,700
Idaho	120,200	58,000	133,385	62,000
Maine	16,430	7,100	16,960	8,000
Michigan	13,950	3,200	13,878	4,300
Minnesota	18,425	7,900	18,700	7,400
Montana	3,296	2,460	3,224	2,800
Nebraska	8,400	^{1/}	8,611	^{1/}
New York	5,942	600	5,500	550
Ohio	1,097	^{1/}	1,008	^{1/}
Oregon	20,730	11,500	24,936	9,900
Pennsylvania	3,173	600	2,590	500
Washington	94,400	32,500	95,200	33,000
Wisconsin	31,955	10,000	31,125	9,500
Other States		2,430		2,950
15 State Total	387,179	158,590	410,912	163,900

^{1/} Combined into Other States.

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